

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 14925 131549Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 /066 W

----- 054623

R 131221Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1823

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 14925

EO 11652: N/A DECON 12/13/75

TAGS: PINS IS PLO

SUBJECT: TERRORIST INCIDENT IN TEL AVIV THEATER

REF: TEL AVIV 7172

1. ORIGINAL PLO CLAIM (ISSUED BY PLO "MILITARY SPOKESMAN" IN DAMASCUS AND CIRCULATED HERE EARLY DEC 12 BY PLO (Wafa) NEWS AGENCY) OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEC 11 TERRORIST INCIDENT IN TEL AVIV THEATER WAS FOLLOWED UP BY 'ARAFAT STATEMENT IN DEC 12 PRO-FEDAYEEN AL MUHARRIR: "WE HAVE RETALIATED FOR THE (DEC 11) BEIRUT ATTACK WITHIN 12 HOURS. SHOULD ISRAEL CARRY OUT SIMILAR OPERATIONS, WE WILL RETALIATE WITHIN 6 HOURS. WHEN THEY KILL INNOCENT PERSONS AMONG OUR PEOPLE, WE HAVE RIGHT TO STRIKE BACK IN KIND... WE ARE CAPABLE OF RETALIATING FOR ANY AGGRESSION AGAINST US."

2. FOR WHAT IT WORTH, WE NOTE THAT WHILE 'ARAFAT AND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 14925 131549Z

PLO SPOKESMEN WERE ISSUING ABOVE STATEMENTS, PFLP

SPOKESMEN IN BEIRUT WERE ALSO CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEL AVIV INCIDENT AND BAD-MOUTHING PLO AT SAME TIME. IN LENGTHY STATEMENT ISSUED HERE LATER DEC 12, PFLP GAVE PURPORTED DETAILS RE THEATER INCIDENT, INCLUDING ALLEGED PICTURE OF DEAD TERRORIST NAMED "MUZAFFAR" WHOM PFLP CLAIMED HAD LED FOUR-MAN TEM IN THEATER. STATEMENT SAID OPERATION HAD BEEN MOUNTED "ENTIRELY WITHIN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES" TO COMMEMORATE PFLP'S SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY AND AS RPLY TO CONTINUING EFFORTS "BY US IMPERIALISM AND DEFEATIST, REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES TO LIQUIDATE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION" AND IMPOSE PEACEFUL ME SETTLEMENT BASED ON SC RES 242. IT THEN VIOLENTLY ATTACKED PLO FOR LINKING ITS POLICIES TO THOSE OF ARAB REGIMES AND FOR "GRADUALLY MOVING TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF LIQUIDATION PLAN AND RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL".

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE LONG BEEN ACCUSTOMED, OF COURSE, TO CONFLICTING FEDAYEEN CLAIMS REGARDING RESPONSIBILITY FOR VARIOUS TERROR OPERATIONS. (FROM ISRAELI VIEWPOINT, IT PROBABLY MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE WHETHER ONE GROUP'S CLAIM IS MORE ACCURATE THAN ANOTHER'S.) ON BASIS OF INFO AVAILABLE TO US, AND DESPITE FACT THAT MOST "DETAILS" CIRCULATED HERE DIFFER SUBSTANTIALY FROM THOSE REPORTED REFTEL, WE THINK PFLP WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR TEL AVIV THEATER INCIDENT, AND THAT ITS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WAS TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON 'ARAFAT AND CO. TO ADHERE TO PROPER "REVOLUTIONARY" LINE. JUDGING FROM 'ARAFAT'S OWN STATEMENTS AND FURTHER INTENSIFICATION OF FEDAYEEN-ISRAELI HOSTILITIES IN LAST FEW DAYS (SEPTELS), WOULD APPEAR THAT PFLP STRATEGY IS HAVING DESIRED EFFECT. AS BY-PRODUCT OF THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS, PROSPECT OF INTER-FEDAYEEN CLASHES REPORTED BEIRUT 14376 HAS RECEDED CONSIDERABLY.
HOUGHTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: THEATER (DRAMA), TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT14925
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740363-0115
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741238/aaaabgjm.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 TEL AVIV 7172
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TERRORIST INCIDENT IN TEL AVIV THEATER
TAGS: PINS, IS, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005